

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. – 49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) A method for suppressing vehicle fires, comprising: activating a fire suppression system fit into an automobile on a condition of acceleration or deceleration and on a condition of speed and on a condition of time, provided the vehicle has reached a minimum speed condition and a time delay after an acceleration or deceleration condition indicative of a collision is adjusted according to the speed that is in excess of the minimum speed at the time of collision, and wherein the fire suppression system includes a container containing a propellant and a fluid fire suppressant, wherein the propellant is functional to propel the fluid fire suppressant from the container; and a surfactant in the fluid fire suppressant enhances the film-forming capability of the fluid fire suppressant on a fuel.

51. – 54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) An automotive vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle body;

a reservoir containing a fire suppressant agent, with said reservoir being mounted in proximity to said body;

a distribution system for receiving the fire suppressant agent from said reservoir and for conducting the fire suppressant agent to at least one location about said body;

a sensor system for determining whether the vehicle has been subjected to an impact and whether the vehicle is moving subsequent to such an impact; and

a controller, operatively connected with said sensor system and said reservoir, for causing said reservoir to initiate delivery of the fire suppressant agent from the reservoir to the distribution system.

56. (Previously presented) A method for operating a fire suppression system installed in an automotive vehicle, comprising the steps of:

sensing an impact upon the vehicle;

sensing the vehicle's speed following the impact; and

discharging a fire suppression agent from an onboard reservoir in the event that the vehicle's speed crosses a predetermined speed threshold following sensing of an impact.

57. – 60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously presented) The automotive vehicle of claim 55 wherein said reservoir includes a gas generator effective to generate a propellant for establishing a pressure effective to deliver said fire suppressant agent to said distribution system.

62. (Previously presented) The automotive vehicle of claim 61 wherein said gas generator is a pyrotechnic gas generator.

63. (Previously presented) The automotive vehicle of claim 62 wherein said propellant is selected to be a solid.

64. (Previously presented) The automotive vehicle of claim 61 wherein said at least one location about said body includes an underside of said vehicle body.

65. (Previously presented) The automotive vehicle of claim 62 wherein said at least one location about said body includes an underside of said vehicle body.

66. – 70. (Canceled)

71. (New) A method for activating a fire suppression system installed in a vehicle, such as a passenger automobile, comprising the steps of:

detecting a collision with a sensor;

sensing when a vehicle is coming to a stop after a collision; and

activating the fire suppression system to discharge a volume of fire suppressant from a tank installed in the vehicle based on vehicle speed or a lack thereof after said collision.